

EMBASSY UPDATES

NEWSLETTER FOR U.S. CITIZENS IN KOSOVO



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2 SPRING 2020

The Embassy Update will be a bit different this time, as we are all working from home. We regret there is no business highlight, no Unseen Kosovo, and no section of the month. We hope to return these features with the next update in three months.

Embassy During Coronavirus

There aren't many cars in the parking lot, and the embassy is nearly empty. We're still here, though! Nearly all American embassy personnel have committed to stay right here in Kosovo for the duration of this crisis. On top of that, all of us are working every day - from home, and at the embassy when we must - to keep you informed and to further the goals of the United States government in Kosovo.



Photo of Nicholas Giacobbe, our Deputy Chief of Mission, working from home courtesy of the Public Diplomacy section.

The Public Diplomacy section is still engaging with the people of Kosovo. The Political Section meets regularly with government members and influencers. The Security Section still patrols the embassy grounds and liaises with the police. The Management Section is still hiring people, maintaining our embassy building and housing, keeping our computers and telephones working, delivering mail, answering the phones, and ordering and distributing supplies. Medical is in constant contact with the Kosovo Ministry of Health and keeping our mission members healthy.

And what is Consular doing? Over the last several weeks, we have assisted about a hundred of your fellow Americans and permanent residents return to the United States. We've sent out near daily reports of the situation in Kosovo and available flights out. We've listened to you when you've been uncertain or scared. We are here for you.

**The U.S. Embassy is on maximum telework until further notice.
If you have an emergency, you can email us at PristinaACS@state.gov or call us
at +381 338 59 59 30 01.**



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Contact us if you have any questions at PristinaACS@state.gov.
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Local Laws DO Apply

Your American citizenship entitles you to a lot of things. One thing it does not do is entitle you to ignore the laws of the country you're in. There are a lot more rules and ongoing rule changes as the government of Kosovo analyzes and reacts to the effects of the corona virus. You are expected to stay informed of the changes (we try to help with that with our messages) and obey them!

The Consular Section is not able to do any legal work on your behalf. If you are arrested or fined, it's on you to pay the fine or hire a lawyer. There is [a list of lawyers](#) on our website. Because of the risk of transmission of disease, we cannot currently visit you in jail as we normally would. We can talk with you on the phone and make sure you are okay and being treated humanely, but we cannot do anything else.

Please obey the laws. Observe curfews and quarantine and stay at home orders. Wear your masks. Obey police officers. Don't get in trouble.



Consular Section Abilities

While the embassy is on maximum telework, this is what we can do:

1. Receive your phone calls and emails and respond to them.
2. Notify you of flights to the U.S. and help you with the restrictions. To ensure you receive notifications, enroll in [STEP](#).
3. Issue emergency passports.
4. Loan money to return home if all other options are exhausted. These loans must be paid back.
5. Organize medical evacuation flights for United States citizens ONLY. These flights average a cost of \$250,000. You will be expected to pay the government back.
6. Provide notarials ONLY for absent parents to give permission for their minor children to get passports.
7. Help you out of a dangerous situation and into a safe place.



Delivery Options

More and more places are offering delivery in Kosovo at this time. The list here is for your convenience. We are not endorsing any vendors, and we do not guarantee any products. By buying from these businesses, you are helping to pay their employees and keeping them open when all the curfews lift. Email us at PristinaACS@state.gov if you know of other places that should be on this list!

For almost anything, Gjirafa <https://gjirafa.com/> has a wide variety of goods, including electronics and groceries.

For home appliances and electronics, Neptun <https://www.facebook.com/NeptunKS/>

For home goods and furniture, Jysk <https://jysk-ks.com/>

For home goods and linens, Comodita: <https://www.facebook.com/comoditahome/>

For gardening supplies, Agrocoop NPT: <https://www.facebook.com/agrocoop2/>

For groceries, there are several!

Spar <https://spar-kosova.com/>

Maxi <https://www.maxiks.shop/>

Ebaa <https://www.e-baa.com/>

Mapo <https://mapoks.eurolab.com.al/>



Photo from depositphoto.com

Tired of cooking?

Kupohanja <https://www.kupohajna.com/>

Dominos <https://www.dominos-ks.com/en/>

SushiCo <https://www.sushicokosova.com/ko/>

Proper Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/properpizzadelivery/>

Sach Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/sachpizza/>

Napoli Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/napolipristine/>

Buffalo <https://www.facebook.com/buffalopristine/>

KFC Kosovo <https://www.facebook.com/kfckosova/>

Burger King <https://www.facebook.com/BurgerKingKosova/>

Sarajeva Steakhouse <https://www.facebook.com/sarajevasteak/>

Restaurant Saranda <https://www.facebook.com/restaurantsarandapristine/>

Nona's Pastry <https://www.facebook.com/nonaspastry/>



Photo from Domino's Kosovo

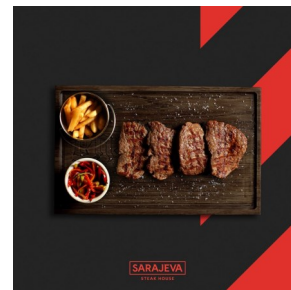


Photo from Sarajeva Steakhouse

Time To Garden

Ever had an itch to garden? Something for the children to do out in the garden? This is the year to do it. While no one will be starving in Kosovo this year, there may not be the variety of food you are used to.

Kosovo both grows its own fruits and vegetables and imports from other places. It is the imports that are going to be hard to get this year. In Europe and other places, [border restrictions](#) are making it difficult to impossible to get temporary workers to plant, cultivate, and harvest crops. This means there may be fewer crops this year to export. Which means that if you have a favorite item to eat, you may want to grow it. Several places have seeds. Look for them when you shop for groceries.

Many farmers are not planting as many crops in Kosovo this year for two reasons: an ongoing drought and a possible lack of logistics to export their bounty. There will be no shortage here of perennial crops- fruits,



Photo courtesy of Cornell Cooperative Extension

berries, and vegetables from trees and vines, things that come back year after year. On the other hand, it may be a little harder to find items grown as annuals, such as squash, beans, corn, peppers, and so on. These are exactly the plants you can grow in your back garden or on your balcony or patio. It's also a good way to keep children interested in eating the plants they grow.



Photo courtesy of Chatham County Extension. North Carolina

Things to Do

Whether you are waiting for a flight back to the United States or are staying in Kosovo, we realize you need a way to distract your mind and possibly your children. Starting below is a list, with a bit of categorization and some descriptions, of things to keep your family distracted.

Fitness

[Cosmic Kids Yoga](#) - Free full length yoga classes that keep kids entertained and active

[The Little Gym UK](#) - Free full length gymnastics classes for kids and toddlers

[Peloton](#) - free account for 90 days with a large selection of biking, running, HIIT, yoga, and stretching classes

[Fitness Blender](#) - Free fitness classes for all levels

[Yoga Download](#) - Offers free live classes almost daily which are archived on their facebook page

Scholastic, Stories, and Science

www.stories.audible.com - Audible is offering free literature as audio books. Titles range from suitable for toddlers to classic literature for adults.

<https://www.nasa.gov/kidsclub/index.html> - Space for kids.

<https://www.facebook.com/rferl/videos/501929483808231/> - Explaining the coronavirus to children from RFE/RL. Suitable for 3 years plus.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/> - Online math lessons in short bites. Each lesson explains one thing and goes over it in multiple ways.

<https://readinggroups.org/> - Find online book clubs.

<https://interestingengineering.com/7-diy-physics-experiments-that-will-impress-everyone> - Physics experiments to do at home.

<https://uw.physics.wisc.edu/~wonders/HomeExperiments.pdf> - More physics experiments to do at home.

<https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/chemistry-activities-experiments-kids/> - Chemistry experiments to do at home.

<https://www.science-sparks.com/brilliant-chemistry-experiments/> - More chemistry experiments to do at home.

<https://www.yourcentralvalley.com/news/local-news/virtual-music-lessons-is-becoming-the-new-norm-2/> A list of places to get music lessons online.

<https://www.rosettastone.com/freeforstudents/> Free Rosetta Stone

[Scholastic](#) - free teaching lessons and projects for a variety of skill levels and age groups

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach> - Videos for home schooling from BBC, including Bitesize Daily, a celebrity teaching series.



Animals

Train your dog or cat to do new tricks.

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/whats-on/family-kids-news/zoos-watch-animals-live-cameras-17975007> - Go to the zoo on your computer.

Set up a facebook or instagram account for your pet and post the things your pet does to it. Maybe your pet will be the next Grumpy Cat.

<https://www.fatherly.com/play/activities/zoo-live-stream-aquarium-live-stream-kids/> - This link has a list of both zoos and aquaria to watch live.

Go on safari from the comfort of your sofa with [free safari cams](#)

Craft and Do It Yourself Ideas

<https://www.diyncrafts.com/27010/repurpose/35-brilliant-diy-repurposing-ideas-cardboard-boxes> We all have cardboard boxes. Let's put them to use.

<https://agrillifeextension.tamu.edu/library/gardening/how-to-plant-a-garden/>
- Growing your own garden.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html> - Make a mask.



Image courtesy of CDC

<https://shop.mybluprint.com/a/shop/free-preview> offering several free classes. This is the site that took over Crafsy. Lots of ideas and tutorials.

<https://www.smartschoolhouse.com/diy-crafts/ideas-for-kids?> - Crafts specifically quick and easy for children.